LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application. Added text is indicated by underlining, and deleted text is indicated by strikethrough. Changes are identified by a vertical bar in the margin.

1.   (Canceled)

2.   (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising: A method of determining business entity ownership interest allocation in accordance with a digital data set, the method comprising:
      determining contributor transaction classes into which transactions of contributors with a business entity are assigned:
      processing the digital data set with a computer processor, and calculating a contribution value for the contributor transactions in each contributor transaction class to indicate the contribution of each transaction to the value of the business entity, using at least one performance metric for each contributor transaction class:
      determining at least one award rule for each contributor transaction class in response to the calculated contribution values for the contributor transaction classes:
      determining the amount of the ownership interest in the business entity to be issued to the selected contributor in accordance with the determined award rule; and
      issuing the determined ownership interest to the selected contributor.

Claims 3-5   (Canceled)

6.   (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1 claims 2 or 8, wherein the at least one performance metric for a contributor transaction class is determined by:
      identifying data relevant to measurement of contributor transaction class

contribution to business value;

determining one or more performance metrics to be used for each contributor transaction class; and

determining one or more rules for governing changes in the performance metric or metrics of each contributor transaction class over time.

7.   (Currently amended) A method as defined in ~~claim 6~~ claims 2 or 8, further comprising periodically re-evaluating the performance metric or metrics to be used for a contributor transaction class in response to changes in the data set over time.

8.   (Currently amended) ~~A method as defined in claim 1,~~ A method of determining business entity ownership interest allocation in accordance with a digital data set, the method comprising:

determining contributor transaction classes into which transactions of contributors with a business entity are assigned;

processing the digital data set with a computer processor, and calculating a contribution value for the contributor transactions in each contributor transaction class to indicate the contribution of each transaction to the value of the business entity, using at least one performance metric for each contributor transaction class; and

determining at least one award rule for each contributor transaction class in response to the calculated contribution values for the contributor transaction classes; wherein determining an award rule for a selected transaction contributor comprises:

determining an ownership interest award rule for each contributor transaction class; and

determining one or more rules governing changes in equity awards for contributor transaction classes over time; and

determining an ownership interest award for each transaction contributor of the data set according to the calculated contribution value.

9.   (Currently amended) A method as defined in ~~claim 8~~ claims 2 or 8, further comprising periodically re-evaluating the one or more ownership interest award rules in response to changes in the data set over time.

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Currently amended) ~~A system as defined in claim 10,~~ A computer system that determines a business entity ownership interest allocation, the system comprising one or more computer processors that execute program instructions and receive a digital data set, determine contributor transaction classes into which transactions of contributors with a business entity are assigned, calculate a contribution value for the contributor transactions in each contributor transaction class to indicate the contribution of each transaction to the value of the business entity, using at least one performance metric for each contributor transaction class, and determine at least one award rule for each contributor transaction class in response to the calculated contribution values for the contributor transaction classes, wherein the processors further execute program instructions to determine the amount of the ownership interest in the business entity to be issued to the selected contributor in accordance with the determined award rule and issue the determined ownership interest to the selected contributor.

Claims 12-14 (Canceled)

15.   (Currently amended) A system as defined in ~~claim 10~~ claims 11 or 17, wherein the processors determine the at least one performance metric for a contributor transaction class by identifying data relevant to measurement of contributor transaction class contribution to business value; determining one or more performance metrics to be used for each contributor transaction class; and determining one or more rules for governing changes in the performance metric or metrics of each contributor transaction

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class over time.

16.   (Currently amended) A system as defined in ~~claim 15~~ claims 11 or 17, wherein the processors periodically re-evaluate the performance metric or metrics to be used for a contributor transaction class in response to changes in the data set over time.

17.   (Currently amended) ~~A system as defined in claim 10~~ A computer system that determines a business entity ownership interest allocation, the system comprising one or more computer processors that execute program instructions and receive a digital data set, determine contributor transaction classes into which transactions of contributors with a business entity are assigned, calculate a contribution value for the contributor transactions in each contributor transaction class to indicate the contribution of each transaction to the value of the business entity, using at least one performance metric for each contributor transaction class, and determine at least one award rule for each contributor transaction class in response to the calculated contribution values for the contributor transaction classes, wherein the processors determine an award rule for a selected transaction contributor by determining an ownership interest award rule for each contributor transaction class; determining one or more rules governing changes in equity awards for contributor transaction classes over time; and determining an ownership interest award for each transaction contributor of the data set according to the calculated contribution value.

18.   (Currently amended) A system as defined in ~~claim 17~~ claims 11 or 17, wherein the processors further periodically re-evaluate the one or more ownership interest award rules in response to changes in the data set over time.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled)

21.   (Currently amended) ~~A program product as defined in claim 20~~ A

program product for use in a computer system that executes program steps recorded in

a computer-readable media to perform a method for determining business entity

ownership interest allocation in response to a data set, the program product comprising:

a recordable media;

a program of computer-readable instructions executable by the computer system

to perform operations comprising:

determining contributor transaction classes into which transactions of

contributors with a business entity are assigned;

calculating a contribution value for the grouped contributor transactions in each

contributor transaction class to indicate the contribution of each transaction to the value

of the business entity, using at least one performance metric for each contributor

transaction class; and

determining at least one award rule for each contributor transaction class in

response to the calculated contribution values for the contributor transaction classes,

wherein the operations further comprise:

, determining the amount of the ownership interest in the business entity to be

issued to the selected contributor in accordance with the determined award rule; and

issuing the determined ownership interest to the selected contributor.

Claims 22-24 (Canceled)

25.   (Currently amended) A program product as defined in ~~claim 20~~ claims 21

or 27, wherein the at least one performance metric for a contributor transaction class is

determined by:

identifying data relevant to measurement of contributor transaction class

contribution to business value;

determining one or more performance metrics to be used for each contributor

transaction class; and

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determining one or more rules for governing changes in the performance metric or metrics of each contributor transaction class over time.

26.   (Currently amended) A program product as defined in ~~claim 25~~ claims 21 or 27, further comprising periodically re-evaluating the performance metric or metrics to be used for a contributor transaction class in response to changes in the data set over time.

27.   (Currently amended) ~~A program product as defined in claim 20~~ A program product for use in a computer system that executes program steps recorded in a computer-readable media to perform a method for determining business entity ownership interest allocation in response to a data set, the program product comprising:
    a recordable media;
    a program of computer-readable instructions executable by the computer system to perform operations comprising:
    determining contributor transaction classes into which transactions of contributors with a business entity are assigned;
    calculating a contribution value for the grouped contributor transactions in each contributor transaction class to indicate the contribution of each transaction to the value of the business entity, using at least one performance metric for each contributor transaction class; and
    determining at least one award rule for each contributor transaction class in response to the calculated contribution values for the contributor transaction classes, wherein the operation of determining an award rule for a selected transaction contributor comprises:
    determining an ownership interest award rule for each contributor transaction class; and
    determining one or more rules governing changes in equity awards for contributor transaction classes over time; and

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determining an ownership interest award for each transaction contributor of the data set according to the calculated contribution value.

28.   (Currently amended) A program product as defined in ~~claim 27~~ claims 21 or 27, further comprising periodically re-evaluating the one or more ownership interest award rules in response to changes in the data set over time.